

QUAINT ARMY MAINTAINED BY THE POPE AT THE VATICAN



TRUMPETER NOBLE GUARD, FULL UNIFORM.



SWISS IN ARMOR.



SWISS HALBERDIER.



SWISS GUARD.



GENDARME IN FULL UNIFORM.



SWISS SWORD BEARER.



ENTRANCE TO SWISS BARRACKS.



PAPAL DRAGOON.



PAPAL GUARD ON DUTY.

Although no longer a territorial sovereign, the Pope is nevertheless recognized not only by the Italian law of guarantees but also by the world at large, as the "Sovereign Pope," enjoying all the privileges and attributes of kingship, including that of maintaining armed troops. Few persons, however, know that the Vatican is the most military ridden realm in the universe.

Yet so it is. France in time of war puts 6 per cent of its citizens under arms, Italy and Germany 5 per cent, Russia only 2 per cent. The Papal army when it is entirely mobilized on grand occasions, such as ceremonies in St. Peter's or during conclaves, numbers about 700 soldiers to the 2,000 persons who inhabit the apostolic palace.

Four years ago the question was raised as to whether the Holy See had a right to be represented at The Hague Peace Conference, and although it might have been expected that the Powers would immediately grant the application of Leo XIII, it was ultimately rejected on the plea that he had no standing army. But the Grand Duke of Luxembourg was represented, and the total standing army of Luxembourg consists of 150 soldiers and 150 gendarmes, 300 in all, whereas the pontifical army is twice as numerous, the Noble Guard, Swiss and Palatine guards and gendarmes forming a total armed force of 700 officers and men.

Of course the days are past when the Roman Pontiff was head of the church militant in more senses than one and had recourse to very pointed arguments in order to insure respect and submission to the Holy See. The world is not likely ever again to see bishops and cardinals leading the pontifical troops to battle, or a second Pope Julius riding boldly into Mirandola through the breach, at the head of his victorious soldiers.

But men still live who have seen much hard fighting under the banner of the crossed keys, for the Papal troops were not idle under Pius IX., who, before entering on the religious career which was crowned by the tiara, was himself a dashing dragoon. Led by Gen. Durando, the valiant soldiers behaved with great valor against the Austrians at Curtatone and in other hotly contested engagements during that short and glorious campaign, when for a moment it seemed as if the independence and unity of Italy might be achieved with one great effort by the Italians themselves.

Hence it is not quite fair that in the popular songs and tales of the peninsula the Papal soldiery are always the butt for ridicule, as for instance, in one of the Tuscan nursery songs, in which the ditty runs that a lazy person is like the Papal soldiery, needing a hundred to dig up one turnip. After Pius IX.'s *volte face* nothing but defeat or inglorious victories awaited the Papal arms, so that when the troops of the Holy See surrendered and were disbanded in 1870 the great traditions of past ages were already obscured and forgotten.

Despite the law of guarantees, which stipulated that the Pope should be allowed to retain a portion of his soldiers, the old Papal regular army has not a single representative among the various armed corps now in the Vatican. Infantry of the line, sharpshooters, zouaves, all the practical elements of the pontifical army have been

completely suppressed, while only the ornamental soldiers, so to speak, remain.

What these soldiers lack in number and warlike efficiency is amply compensated by that pierce glittering ostentation which is so well in keeping with the grandeur of the surroundings. In reviewing the Pope's army, such as it is now, it is useful to study the dictates of etiquette and precedence which reign supreme at the Vatican and one must therefore begin with the Guardia Nobile, or bodyguard of the Pope.

They are a corps of a character common in the Italian courts in early days, but surviving only in the Vatican, where many other quaint traditions linger. These Noble Guards are what their name implies, before all else noble, and must be scions of the great patrician families pertaining to the ancient states of the church. Indeed, candidates are not accepted unless they can prove that their forefathers have been noble for at least thirteen generations.

They must have a certain height, be of good manners and morals, holding unshaken faith in the dogmas of the Church, and, above all, they must hold no social or other contact with the so-called usurpers now reigning in Rome or sympathize with the new order of things.

The foundation of this aristocratic corps is comparatively recent, as the Noble Guards were first instituted by Pius VII. in 1801. Their origin, however, may be traced to the pontificate of Paul IV. (1555-59), who was such a favorite with the Romans that they appointed 100 young men of the best families to act as a guard of honor to the Pope. These picked men were called Cavalieri Loggieri or Lancie Spezzate, and were conspicuous for the smartness of their get-up, from the elaborate description of which, admirably recorded by old chroniclers, we gather that in the past, as at present, they were ornamental soldiers, figuring in Papal pageants and processions.

The corps of Noble Guards comprises seventy-five individuals, divided as follows: Two captains with the rank of Lieutenant-Generals, alternating in command (the present commander is Prince Camillo Ruspoli); a Lieutenant and a Sub-Lieutenant, ranking as Major-Generals; seven *Escenti*, ranking as Colonels, and fifty guards, all holding the rank of Captain. There are, moreover, two trumpeters, two

corporals and two sergeants, so that the Pope's Noble Guard may be described as the most officered corps in the world.

Vacancies occur very seldom and are instantly filled, as there are always dozens of candidates awaiting their turn. When admitted these guards must be not less than 30 years old and not more than 25, must be at least 1 metre and 72 centimetres in height and must possess a capital of not less than twenty thousand francs.

By tradition they should have a horse each, for they are supposed to be a mounted arm, and they always wear spurs and carry a whip, but the financial needs of the Vatican have forced it to reduce the number of horses from sixty to eight. Thus, as has been remarked, if Great Britain can boast of having mounted infantry the Pope can boast of having foot cavalry.

It is Vatican etiquette that the Pope should not move a step, not even from one room to another, without an escort of these men, who precede him with drawn swords. Pius X. is always studying how he can give them the slip, and it is said he escapes down secret passages and through dark rooms to gain a little of that liberty of which he is so fond and of which his elevation to the Papacy has deprived him. It is said that not infrequently they ride full gallop behind the carriage that they deem contains him while his supposed occupant is watching them with boyish glee hidden behind some bush in the vast Vatican gardens.

From a financial point of view the appointments are hardly worth having, as the remuneration is by no means high and candidates joining the corps have to provide their expensive uniforms and accoutrements; but aristocratic mothers are eager to get their younger sons into the Noble Guards, as they believe it keeps them out of mischief and may be the means of their being entrusted with some special mission, for which there is special and handsome pay, such as bringing the hat to a newly appointed Cardinal residing abroad or acting in the capacity of confidential messenger to some foreign court.

It has long been a subject of bitter dispute between the Swiss and the Palatine Guard as to which of the two is entitled to precedence over the other. But whatever the Palatine may have to urge, the Swiss are certainly the more interesting

and older established.

Indeed, a body of Swiss mercenaries was employed by Sixtus IV. to guard the Vatican as early as 1484, but the real corps of Swiss Guards was founded by the warlike Pontiff, Julius II. He made a contract with the cantons of Lucerne and Zurich that they should furnish him with a perpetual corps of 200 soldiers, and this contract is still in force.

Although the Pope's Swiss Guards form no exception to the so-called Swiss national maxim, "*Point d'argent, point de Suisse*," they invariably uphold their traditional reputation for fidelity and dogged bravery. When the French soldiers, led by the Comte de Bourbon, pillaged Rome in 1527, the Swiss Guards defended the Vatican with heroic tenacity, giving the Pope time to escape into the Castle of St. Angelo and holding it against overwhelming numbers until they were all killed. So recently as 1818 they again saved Pope Pius IX. and the Quirinal Palace from destruction at the hands of a mob.

The Swiss Guard is without doubt the most picturesque corps in the Vatican or out of it. If it is true, as tradition has it, that Michel Angelo designed the extraordinary uniforms they wear, a sort of patchwork of black, yellow and red stripes, it may be surmised that the misanthropic painter perpetrated a grim joke at the expense of the mercenary barbarians, whom his Latin spirit loathed.

Although formerly consisting of 300 men, the Swiss Guard has now been reduced. It is commanded by a Colonel, in the person of Baron Meyer von Schauensee, a Captain, a Lieutenant and two *Escenti*. There are also six sergeants, six corporals and four drummers.

The duty of the Swiss is to guard the Vatican Palace and they may be seen on duty at all the entrances. On festive occasions their banner, blue, red and yellow, with the Papal cross keys, floats over the bronze door that gives principal admittance to the huge abode of the Popes.

Despite their gaudy costume and the fact that they figure conspicuously in processions and religious ceremonies, covered with armor and carrying halberds and heavy medieval swords the Swiss soldiers are not merely ornamental. They are armed, when on duty, with Remington rifles, bayonets and revolvers, and drill

regularly in the Belvedere Court and in the Vatican gardens, where they even have rifle ranges.

These Swiss, from the commandant to the lowest subaltern, all lodge in the Vatican, either in splendid apartments or in special barracks. The men are all of tall physique, of serious and soldierly bearing, and a glance at their persons is sufficient to convince one that should the occasion arise they, too, would be capable of dying at their post as heroically as their forefathers did. Nor is every one who presents himself chosen for this corps. In fact, it has become in the course of time a much coveted position.

Recruits are selected from families of good position but of small means. Many of them seek an appointment in order to get a chance of going to Rome and improving their minds by study and travel, for enough time is left to these guards to perfect themselves in some art or trade. Thus many Swiss guards in their spare time frequent artists' studios and sculptors' workshops. In this wise these young men, while living free of expense in Rome, are able to take back with them when they quit the Papal service knowledge that will serve them for all their life.

The Swiss Guard costs the Pope \$4500 a year. In the old days its members received a pension on retiring after twenty years' service. Besides, they have the right to numerous perquisites on the death and election of a Pope and other solemn occasions, thus considerably increasing the annual expense above the sum named.

One point decidedly in favor of the Palatine guards, as compared with their rivals the Swiss, is the fact that they do not receive any pay, serving the Pope from purely disinterested motives. The Swiss, it is true, have more than once plainly hinted that the services of their brethren in arms are not worth paying for, and this opinion is shared by the Romans, who are never tired of poking fun at the Pope's volunteers.

Numerically, the Palatine Guard forms the most important branch of the Papal army, as it consists of four companies of sixty men, each armed with Remingtons and bayonets. The corps is almost entirely recruited from the petty burgher class, who live in the immediate neighborhood of the Vatican and have thus kept

up a traditional affection for the place and its inmates.

In procession and other grand pageants the commander of the Palatine Guard walks before the Pope's sedia gestatoria, side by side with the Colonel of the Swiss Guard, this ingenious device having been resorted to by the late Pope in order to solve the eternal question of precedence.

The principal duty of the Palatine Guard consists in forming cordons and keeping back the crowd during pontifical ceremonies, when the Pope goes in *pompa magna* to the Sistine Chapel or descends into St. Peter's. Once a week, on Sundays, the Palatines are drilled in the Belvedere Court, and their evolutions are gradually improving as the younger element, men who have served in the Italian Army, replace the older members.

In the halcyon days of the temporal power, when simony and perquisites prevailed, the Palatine Guard had extra gratifications in the shape of free entrance to all the theatres and city amusements, but all these extras have of course now been cut off. A very slender pay is given as a substitute.

Yet another corps is that of the gendarmes. These were instituted by Pope Pius IX. Formerly the law was represented by the birri or policemen, depending on the head of the police, but gradually the very name of birri became so hateful to the Romans that in 1815 Pius VII. reorganized the corps, calling them carabinieri, and as such they were known until Pius IX. gave them their present name and uniform, both of which he copied pretty closely from the French.

With their enormous three cornered headgear and ponderous swords the Papal gendarmes remind one irresistibly of Offenbach's operettas; but when in full uniform, with their huge bearskins, not unlike those of the English grenadiers, white leather hose, gaiters and shining jack boots, these men, whose minimum stature is six feet, look undeniably imposing and picturesque.

The Papal gendarmes number 100 and each member receives about \$310 a month in pay. They mount guard in the Vatican across staircases, loggia and corridors, as well as in the museums and the gardens. They are also stationed at regular intervals along the route of Papal processions in St. Peter's.

With regard to their keeping watch in the gardens an amusing tale is told. It seems that Pope Leo XIII. had planted at some cost and trouble a certain special grapevine which his gendarmes assured him would yield at least ten barrels of wine. When autumn came the vine gave only seven barrels. The Pope called for the gardener and asked for an explanation.

"Where," he said, "are my ten barrels?"

The man looked embarrassed but plucked up his courage to reply:

"Holiness, when I said ten barrels I did not allow for the intaking of your Holiness's gendarmes," he said.

Although the Vatican does not spend more than about \$16,000 a year on the upkeep of its army, still its war budget amounts to considerably more, as the Holy See has not forgotten the old soldiers of its regular army, hundreds of whom, failing to obtain employment under the new regime, are almost entirely dependent on pensions which the Pope continues to pay, in spite of the alarming falling off in the receipts of Peter's Pence.

From this brief description of the Papal army it will be seen that the Pontiff's forces are not very formidable, either numerically or from the point of view of their armament, hardly sufficient, indeed, to defend the Vatican in the event of a popular uprising or of riots such as occurred in Rome on the occasion of the funeral of Pius IX. Nevertheless the present Pope is thinking of reducing all the corps to one-half of their efficiency, with the exception of the gendarmes, whom he would increase, and of the *francesi*.

Though the question of economy need not play a large part in this resolve on the part of the Pope, it is also dictated by a dislike of all military parade, which he judges out of place. Nor is this expenditure needed for the security of the Pope or of his abode. The Italian Government is fully conscious of its responsibilities and guards the Vatican with as much care and anxiety as the Quirinal itself.

There are three Italian regiments quartered within a radius of a hundred yards from the Vatican and the bulk of the garrison, some eight thousand men, occupy the barracks skirting the place d'armes of Prati di Castello, ten minutes from the Vatican.

MR. ATKINSON'S OMNISCIENCE.

Inside History of a Course of Lectures to Farmers on Enslavement.

Henry Waterson tells the following story as illustrative of the omniscience of Edward Atkinson, who is ready at all times to pour nomenclature on all theories of human conduct.

The late Col. W. A. Clapp, editor of the Boston Journal, once told Mr. Waterson how he and Atkinson, who had known each other since boyhood, always quarreled furiously about every public question, although they managed to retain their personal friendship.

On one occasion it appears that the question of enslavement was being generally discussed. Atkinson came to the office of Clapp and said:

"William, what is all this talk about enslavement? What is the stuff?"

Clapp, who had been an amateur farmer, explained briefly the process of preservation. Atkinson listened intently, and when he went away casually remarked that he would look up the subject.

"Well, gentlemen," Clapp would say in telling the story, "within ten days I read of Atkinson addressing farmers' institutes on enslavement and its uses and laying down laws of his own about it for farmers to follow."

MR. ROOSEVELT AT THE PLAY.

THE PRESIDENT OFTEN AT THE THEATRE IN WASHINGTON.

Enjoys the Performance Thoroughly, and Shows His Theatrical Companies Like to Have Him Present Because He Inspires Enthusiasm in the Audiences.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—"President Roosevelt is out in front."

This announcement made behind the curtain, in the green room or in the dressing room of a Washington theatre, always occasions more or less excitement and nervousness among the actors and actresses. It is whispered from one to another until every member of the company has heard it.

It is not an uncommon occurrence for the President to attend the theatre. Probably no occupant of the White House has been more frequently a visitor at the playhouse than Mr. Roosevelt. Early in his administration the people of the capital were somewhat surprised to see him at the theatre, for it was not the custom of his

recent predecessors to patronize stage performances.

Mr. Roosevelt, on the other hand, had always enjoyed the play and had been a frequent visitor at the theatre when he was a Commissioner of Civil Service and later an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and he saw no reason why he should change his custom as President. Whenever he can escape from official or social duties, therefore, he goes to the theatre.

No patron of the playhouse gets more enjoyment out of a play, and it is declared among theatrical managers who visit Washington that the President is the best audience in the world. Naturally, therefore, actors and actresses who play in Washington always are anxious to have Mr. Roosevelt and his family attend the performance, and every week several invitations are sent to the White House by Washington managers. It is a good advertisement for local theatres to have the President attend the play, but aside from this he is a valuable addition to the audience, because of the enthusiasm he inspires while witnessing a performance.

The members of President Roosevelt's family are all frequent playgoers, from little Ethel to Mrs. Roosevelt, and all seem

to have the President's appreciation of the drama.

It is usual for the President to arrive early at the theatre and he rarely leaves before the end of the performance. He is always guarded by a corps of Secret Service men, but there is no ostentation about it.

Always attentive to the members of his family, the President, upon arriving at the theatre, first sees to it that Mrs. Roosevelt is provided with the best seat in the box. He generally sits well forward in a position where he can get a good view of the stage.

It is seldom that the President and Mrs. Roosevelt are not accompanied by some friend. Frequently the military attaches of the White House accompany the President, and Miss Morton, daughter of the Secretary of the Navy, is often a guest of the Presidential party at the play. Miss Alice Roosevelt occasionally accompanies the party, but more frequently she goes to the theatre with a party of young persons, and there is always conspicuous in her theatre party an abundance of gilt supplied by the uniforms of army officers and diplomatic attachés.

The President gives close attention to the play, frequently consulting his programme

to see the names of the various characters and who play them. His laugh is loud and hearty and he is never slow to show his pleasure by clapping of the hands.

When something impresses him as very funny, he will throw back his head, open his mouth, displaying those famous white teeth, bring them together with a sharp click, then bury his head in his chest, while his body shakes with laughter and his tawny head swings from side to side in a peculiar demonstration of enjoyment.

Frequently the President will turn to Mrs. Roosevelt and make some observation about the play. Should it be a line or situation that appeals particularly to children, the President will cast a glance and smile at Ethel or Quentin.

Not long ago a magician gave a performance in Washington. The White House children were taken to a matinee and the magician took special pains to entertain them.

In one of his tricks he asked for the loan of rings from persons in the audience. These rings he placed in a pistol, after apparently hammering them out of shape. Then he fired the pistol at a box and later took the rings from the innermost of a series of mahogany cases, all of which

were carefully locked, each ring tied to a rosebud.

Little Ethel had been one of those who volunteered the loan of her ring, but when the trick had been done the magician failed to return her band of gold. Ethel was surprised and greatly perturbed, but she said nothing, and inasmuch as the president had apparently forgotten her property she concluded that it was gone.

Presently, however, the magician took up a brown glass bottle, out of which he poured liquids of various kinds. Then he broke the bottle with a hammer, and out jumped a pretty white rabbit with Ethel's ring tied neatly around its neck. The little lady of the White House was delighted, and when the magician asked her whether she would rather have her ring or the rabbit, she chose the latter.

The President's first appearance in public after his election to the Presidency last November was made at a performance of a political satirical comedy. In one scene a typical backwoods Fourth of July orator introduced his candidate in a protechnical burst of eloquence.

The President listened attentively to every word of the actor and bent his head forward so that he would lose none of the

eloquence. At the conclusion he burst into a hearty laugh and said to Mrs. Roosevelt:

"Don't you know, I felt just as if I were being introduced myself."

Between the acts the President occupies the time in conversation with the members of his party. Should the orchestra play some favorite piece the President will stop and applaud, or if the audience shows its pleasure at his presence by hand clapping, which is not infrequent, he will rise and bow in acknowledgment.

In Washington theatres it is a frequent practice to place the President in the audience, and Mr. Roosevelt never fails to join in the applause that greets it.

Luck of a California Boy.

Recent correspondence from Sacramento, Cal., has been received at this place, has been received at this place, has been received at this place.

The "red cut," a side below this place, has been received at this place, has been received at this place, has been received at this place.

He is only 20 years of age and the good luck is a big eye opener to him. The largest piece he took out will weigh 200. He struck a pocket—that was all. There is no more of the precious metal left, so far as now can be seen.